

Remarks

Applicants and the undersigned would like to thank the Examiner for her efforts in the examination of this application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has deemed Claims 10 and 19 to contain allowable subject matter.

Claim 1 has been amended to contain the recitations of Claim 10. Claim 18 has been made independent, incorporating the recitations of Claims 1 and 19 thereinto.

Claims 1-9 and 11-18 are now believed in condition for allowance.

II. Response to Advisory Action and Telephone Conference with Examiner

In the Advisory Action issued by the Examiner, it was indicated that the Amendment filed on December 28, 2006, would not be entered, since the claims would require further search.

This assertion is most strenuously traversed. In the Final Office Action, the Examiner stated that "Claims 10 and 19 are rejected as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims."

As stated in the previously filed Response, these instructions were followed, incorporating the recitations of Claim 10 into Claim 1, and rewriting Claim 18 into independent form, incorporating the limitations of Claims 1 and 19 thereinto.

Applicants are puzzled as to how Claims 10 and 19 could be considered allowable in a final Office Action, and then considered to require restriction when rewritten into independent form? Nor is it understood how the amendment could be refused entry, when the Examiner's instructions were followed in preparing that amendment. Applicants therefore traverse a restriction requirement being imposed at this stage of prosecution, and

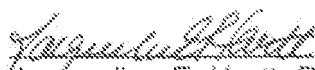
further traverse the propriety of issuing an Advisory Action and the refusal to enter the most recent Amendment when the Examiner's own instructions were followed.

Applicants therefore respectfully request a withdrawal of the Advisory Action, and request entry of the present Amendment. No time-extension fee is believed properly imposed, since, by the Examiner's admission in the telephone conference, the Advisory Action was issued in error.

Conclusions

Applicants respectfully submit that the above amendments place this application in a condition for allowance, and passage to issue is respectfully solicited. Applicants and the undersigned would like to again thank the Examiner for her efforts in the examination of this application and for reconsideration of the claims as amended in light of the arguments presented. If the further prosecution of the application can be facilitated through telephone interview between the Examiner and the undersigned, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the Examiner's convenience.

Respectfully submitted,


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